

Globeform's Saratoga Service



Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell

9

SARATOGA

GLOBEFORM RANKING

SARATOGA DERBY INVITATIONAL (G1) 9.5 fur Turf Saturday August 2

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 2 pounds over this distance

Rank	No.	Name of horse	Globeform	GF most recent runs	Trainer / Jockey
From right to left (most recent first)					
0	7	HOTAZHELL	115	114 - 115 - 115	Harrington / Foley
- 3? / 7p	3	FINAL GAMBIT <i>GF 118? dirt Ky Derby, May 25</i> <i>GF 108p Tapeta, Mar 25</i>	108p	103+ 101 - 118?	Cox / Prat
6	4	TIZTASTIC <i>GF 109 dirt (Louis. Derby), Mar</i>	109	84 - 95 - 109	Asmussen / Rosario
8p	5	TEST SCORE	107p	107p - 107p - 107p	Motion / M Franco
8	6	NEW CENTURY	107	103 - 107 - 104	Walsh / I Ortiz Jr
9p	2	JUWELIER	106p	106p - 100p - ?p	A Botti / Rispoli
11p	9	WORLD BEATER	104p	104p - 102p - 96p	R Mott / Torres
11	8	TIBERIUS THUNDER	104	104 - 98 - 95	Murray / Dettori
14	1	CAPITOL HILL	101	101 - 0 - 96p	W Mott / Velazquez

Globeform rating with a "p" attached = this was the horse's best rating to date and the horse is likely to improve
 Globeform rating with a "+" = this was not its best rating but the horse ran better than the rating suggests

Most recent winners of the Saratoga Derby

2024	CARSON'S RUN	GF 107p	Christophe Clement	Dylan Davis
2023	PROGRAM TRADING	GF 111	Chad Brown	Flavien Prat
2022	NATIONS PRIDE	GF 116	Charlie Appleby	William Buick
2021	STATE OF REST	GF 112p	Joseph O'Brien	John Velazquez
2020	DOMESTIC SPENDING	GF 110	Chad Brown	Irada Ortiz Jr

Average winning Globeform: 111.2

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

HOTAZHELL takes by far the best form into this contest and he will be hard to beat. His trainer has not had too many winners this year and his rider has little experience with US racing, but Hotazhell beat a top class performer on his last start at two and he has run up to the same level in both of his races this season. He got the better of Delacroix in a very close battle when taking the one-mile Futurity Trophy at Doncaster last fall, beating him by a nose, and he ran respectably when fifth to that same rival in the 10-furlong Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park in July, checking in 3 1/2 lengths behind the winner. Prince of Wales Stakes winner Ombudsman ran second, 2,000 Guineas winner Ruling Court took third and French Derby winner >>>

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>>> Camille Pissarro ran fourth. It was one of the best races seen in Europe this year. Arguably the best horse in Europe right now is a colt called Field Of Gold. He won the Irish 2,000 Guineas in May, a race where Hotazhell made his seasonal debut and finished third, beaten 4 1/2 lengths. Field Of Gold won the St. James's Palace Stakes (beating Henri Matisse and Ruling Court) next time out and he is odds-on to win the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood on Wednesday. Hotazhell raced a bit freely in the Irish 2,000 Guineas (just off the early speed); weakening inside the final furlong he ran much like a horse in need of the race. He was coming off a seven-month break.

Hotazhell was too keen also when in a joint lead early on, and didn't have an ideal race, when stepping up to 10 furlongs at Sandown (a very still track with a climbing finish); a 9.5-furlong trip around two turns at Saratoga does not put as much emphasis on stamina, and this field is nowhere near as good as those he met in the Eclipse Stakes. Any one of the four that beat him there would be long odds-on to win this race. Hotazhell has returned **Globeform 115**, 115 and 114 in his three most recent outings, all in top class company, and he is a strong selection. It's no surprise to see him as a clear 7-5 favorite on the morning line.

Trainer Jessica Harrington is only 6-for-281 up to July 29 but she has been one of the best handlers in Ireland in recent years, with plenty of success at the top level. **Jockey Shane Foley** has ridden Hotazhell in all of his eight races. Foley does not cross the pond often; he is 1-for-9 in North America, having won the San Marcos Stakes on John Sadler's Platinum Warrior back in 2019.

FINAL GAMBIT's Kentucky Derby performance sticks out 'by a mile' in his results and it's somewhat puzzling that his connections run him on turf. We were given an explanation after his run in the Belmont Derby, as trainer Brad Cox explained that his win in the Jeff Ruby Steaks at Turfway Park offered a free entry to the Belmont Derby. Well, is the Juddmonte team trying to save money on entry fees these days? The more believable theory is that they do feel he is a turf horse. He ran to **Globeform 118** when fourth at Churchill Downs but perhaps it was a bit of a fluke; that rating now has a "?" attached. Final Gambit performed to **Globeform 108p** on Tapeta at Turfway Park back in March and it makes more sense to use this figure when assessing his chances. He was below that level on turf in the Belmont Derby but ran a little bit better than the result might suggest; compromised by the pace scenario he ran a dead heat with **NEW CENTURY** for fifth, passing the winning post 2 lengths behind **TEST SCORE**, who beat **WORLD BEATER**, Luther and Tank (who both run in the Hall of Fame on Friday). This race is half a furlong longer, something that will suit Final Gambit, who adds blinkers for the first time. He sits high on the ranking but he is a horse coming off two somewhat dull performances (he was last of four in the Matt Winn after the Kentucky Derby). >>>

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TIZTASTIC is another sitting high on the ranking thanks to one good performance on a different surface; his off-the-pace win in the Louisiana Derby over 9.5 furlongs at the Fair Grounds in March. He earned **Globeform 109** as he beat Chunk of Gold by 2 1/2 lengths, but there's not much else on his CV making him an appealing contender for the Saratoga Derby. He was second last in the Kentucky Derby, where the company was way too hot, the track sloppy and his trip far from ideal. Switched to the lawn, he went for the American Derby at Churchill Downs eight weeks later, and was last for five behind Minaret Station.

TEST SCORE is coming off three very good runs, all earning **Globeform 107p**, indicating that there will be better still to come from this colt. Each time he has finished his race off in the manner of a horse wanting to go further, so this step up to 9.5 furlongs should be right up his alley. A thoroughly game and genuine runner, he can be expected to do his best also this week. He raced close to the pace all the way when taking the Belmont Derby over 9 furlongs at Saratoga in early July, beating the staying-on **WORLD BEATER** by 1 1/4 lengths. Luther and Tank filled third and fourth. Note that they will be in action in the Hall of Fame Stakes on Friday. Whatever they do there, Test Score looks the best hope for the home team in this race. Prior to the Belmont Derby he had won the Transylvania at Keeneland and run second to subsequent Manila Stakes winner Zulu Kingdom in the 8.5-furlong American Turf at Churchill Downs. Test Score and **NEW CENTURY** filled second and third in the American Turf, with just a nose between the two. Test Score had New Century 2 lengths behind in the Belmont Derby - when the latter faded after racing in second from the outset. New Century was ridden differently to in his previous races on that occasion; and we should not expect to see him close to the pace as he steps up in distance here. His sire was a top class miler but there's stamina on his dam's side and perhaps he will stay - then again perhaps he is a natural miler.

JUWELIER is a 20-1 shot not to be underestimated. Coming off a game win in the 10-furlong Derby Trial at Baden-Baden in Germany, this French trained colt has been improving through his three starts this season. He went straight to the lead and opened up by many lengths at Baden-Baden - though was reeled in by his rivals in the straight, where it looked like he would be beaten. He was headed for a good few strides but fought back bravely to beat Path of Soldier by a head. Path of Soldier went on to run fourth in the German Derby and his preceding start is also interesting; he won a G3 in May, taking it by a head from Lazio, who ran third in the German Derby and was third again in another G1 on Sunday, when he was 3 3/4 lengths >>>



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>>> behind Trinity College in a G3 at Royal Ascot (when **TIBERIUS THUNDER** was fourth). This piece of form ties in with Juwelier via another horse called Leffard, who beat Trinity College in a G1 at Longchamp in July. Four weeks prior to his Derby Trial win in Germany, Juwelier ran fifth to Nitoi - who won the race from Leffard - in a minor stakes at Chantilly. Nitoi was in top form at the time, coming off a second in G3 company at Longchamp. Juwelier has been mixing it with good horses that have held their own in prestigious events. Is he good enough to be considered as a win contender in the Saratoga Derby? It's not impossible; he is not in the same league as Hotazhell but his form is on a par with the likes of Test Score and New Century. Getting Umberto Rispoli on board, he is set to break from post two; so expect him to head to the lead in an attempt at turning the race into a test of stamina.

WORLD BEATER has improved nicely from race to race this season and he put up a good performance, worth **Globeform 104p**, when running on late to finish second, 1 1/4 lengths behind **TEST SCORE**, in the Belmont Derby. That was his third race tackling 9 furlongs, coming just over a month after his win in the Audubon at Churchill Downs, and there's a good chance that World Beater will appreciate this 9.5-furlong trip even more. A son of the very good 8- to 10-furlong runner Oscar Performance, he is out of the Blame daughter Dabinett. An 8.5-furlong winner (from 4 runs) for Chad Brown, Dabinett a half-sister to the high class turf runner Pomology (Arch). Pomology was at her best over 12 furlongs in Europe and she has produced a colt who won a G3 and ran third in a G1 over 10 furlongs as a juvenile.

CONCLUSION: Hotazhell can't be opposed. He has the best form in the book, he is game and consistent, he travels well in his races and he won't have any problems with this distance. Test Score is not as good but he is equally reliable, he has home court advantage and he might improve again; Final Gambit will have to recapture his form after two subpar runs but he deserves another chance. World Beater needs to improve once more to make an impact but there are reasons to believe that he will - and the French raider Juwelier is also open to improvement. At around 20-1, he's a bit of an unknown quantity and simply must be backed; he has stepped up markedly race by race and as a front-runner he could get a tactical edge.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	7 HOTAZHELL
B	5 TEST SCORE
C	2 JUWELIER, 3 FINAL GAMBIT, 8 TIBERIUS THUNDER, 9 WORLD BEATER

Hotazhell 5th / Eclipse Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wz9uSwJMQ2I>

Hotazhell 3rd / Irish 2,000 Guineas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVspaoIF2hk&t=237s>

Test Score & World Beater / Belmont Derby: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUJAYbcviQA>
5th New Century & Final Gambit (d-h)

Test Score / Transylvania Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryVK0rhbyxQ>

Juwelier / Derby Trial, Baden-Baden: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCn7QrjSiXM>

Final Gambit / Jeff Ruby Steaks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YiwK2shT5o&t=3s>

Tiberius Thunder 4th / Hampton Court Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXfd8Y0bWU8>